

AZERBAIJAN IN 2008

Sociological monitoring

**Comparative analysis of findings of sociological survey
held in the Republic by totals of 2006, 2007 and 2008**

The project was realized under the financial support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Edited by
R. Musabayov
R. Shulman

3, Rashid Behbudov Str.,
Baku, Az1000, Azerbaijan
Phones: (+99412) 492 59 26, (+99412) 492 88 10
E-mail: musab@azdata.net

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Introduction

The survey presented in this brochure was held by totals of 2006, 2007 and 2008 under financial support of Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Germany. They include the questions of socio-economic and political situation in Azerbaijan, living standard and incomes of population, confidence in authority and estimation of public institutions activities, changes in views of population on life, their attitude to actual problems and the most important events in the country and in the world.

The project is carried out by «PULS-R» Sociological Service.

Project Manager - Rasim Musabayov, sociologist - Rakhmil Shulman, sociologist-programmer - Yashar Zeynalov, supervisors - Yulia Adilova, Kenul Karimova

Empirical data processing was made on the basis of SPSS 13.0

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung doesn't incur a liability for contents and summary of survey as well as for the text contents stated in this brochure.

Survey Methodology

“PULS-R” Sociological Service carried out public opinion poll in January-February 2009. One thousand people or 0,0139 % of general population were interviewed. Sample type is random. Selection was made at respondents’ residences among the citizens of 18 and upward. Survey was conducted in 15 rayons: Lenkoran, Lerik, Siyazan, Devechi, Sheki, Oguz, Khanlar, Agstafa, Samukh, Khizi, Neftchala, Terter, Agdjabedi, Agsu, Goychay rayons and 12 cities: Baku, Lenkoran, Liman, Sheki, Ganja, Akhstafa, Shirvan (former Ali-Bayramli), Bilasuvar, Barda, Yevlakh, Zardab, Kurdamir. As far as possible evaluating of survey unit (respondents) was made in proportional correspondence with basic demographic parameters (gender, age, education, social status) characterized Azerbaijan by totals of population census of 1999.

Random sample definition of population was held in three stages:

The 1st stage – the number of respondents to be interviewed in each of 8 economic and geographic regions of the republic was determined (excluding Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic) in accordance with population size in each region.

The 2nd stage – the survey itinerary in each settlement was determined.

The 3rd stage – households and respondents to be interviewed were determined on each survey route.

Respondents were chosen on the basis of a random statistical selection (step of sample), which ensured equal opportunities for all the units of sampled population to be interviewed.

Selection of respondents was provided for by the method of random sampling according with following principles:

in private and single-storey building – 1 respondent;

in multi-storey buildings:

- up to 5 floors – 1 respondent on every 2nd floor;
- up to 9 floors - 1 respondent on every 3rd floor.

Households’ definition was made by means of interchange even and odd apartments numbers on each floor (for example, 2nd floor – apt. 3, 4th floor – apt.7, 6th floor – apt.11, etc.)

In the buildings with many entrances (more than 5 entries) selection of respondents was made in the following ways:

- **up to 5 floors** – 1st (or 2nd) and 3rd (or 4th) entries;
- **up to 9 floors** – 1st (or 2nd) and 4th (or 5th) entries.

Comparative analysis of sociological monitoring data

Sociological monitoring data by totals of 2008 in comparison with 2006 and 2007, tables and comments to them are cited below (all the numbers are cited in percentage terms to total amount of respondents).

Table 1. How do you evaluate current social and political climate in Azerbaijan?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Well	221	22,1	287	28,7	239	23,9
2. Quiet	577	57,7	544	54,4	592	59,2
3. Strained	151	15,1	127	12,7	129	12,9
4. Critical	46	4,6	40	4,0	39	3,9
5. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	5	0,5	2	0,2	1	0,1
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

As it's seen from answers distribution, the positive moods are prevalent among population. The number of respondents estimating a political situation in Azerbaijan as positive is almost five times more than those who has negative estimation. Majority of respondents (more than a half) characterized the situation in the country as *quiet*. This number even has slightly increased in comparison with 2008, but the number of respondents who characterize the situation as *well* has decreased.

Table 2. How do you think, Azerbaijan is developing in the right or wrong direction?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Right direction	693	69,3	712	71,2	697	69,7
2. Wrong direction	237	23,7	241	24,1	242	24,2
3. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	70	7,0	47	4,7	61	6,1
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

The majority of respondents consider that the country is developing in right direction; this number remains practically invariable during last 3 years.

Table 3. Which of the words stated below reflect your personal feelings about living in Azerbaijan more precisely? (no more than 2 answers accepted)

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Fear	31	3,1	37	3,7	41	4,1
2. Hope	581	58,1	595	59,5	564	56,4
3. Uncertainty	148	14,8	182	18,2	183	18,3
4. Despair	108	10,8	100	10,0	139	13,9
5. Confidence	389	38,9	344	34,4	352	35,2
6. Disappointment	118	11,8	122	12,2	127	12,7
7. Progress	108	10,8	118	11,8	112	11,2
8. All the above-mentioned	10	1,0	19	1,9	26	2,6
9. None of the above-mentioned	5	0,5	8	0,8	4	0,4
10. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	8	0,8	13	1,3	1	0,1

As it is evident from answers distribution the positive feelings about living in Azerbaijan are prevalent. As on the results of previous polls the positive states noted by respondents are two times more than negative. At the same time one can observe a growth in number of respondents characterizing their feelings about life in Azerbaijan by the words *fear*, *uncertainty* and

disappointment. According to data of this and previous polls there is a stable group in the number of 11-13% who stayed aside from observed economic growth in the country but suffer from attendant inflation.

Table 4. Which of the below-stated problems give you the greatest concern? (no more than 3 answers accepted)

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Education	160	16,0	181	18,1	135	13,5
2. Crime	105	10,5	83	8,3	99	9,9
3. Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict	688	68,8	536	53,6	678	67,8
4. Bureaucracy arbitrariness	140	14,0	242	24,2	245	24,5
5. Poverty	415	41,5	436	43,6	317	31,7
6. Corruption	257	25,7	294	29,4	309	30,9
7. Renewal of roads, bridges and infrastructure	47	4,7	60	6,0	24	2,4
8. Unemployment	392	39,2	349	34,9	248	24,8
9. Health care	95	9,5	113	11,3	85	8,5
10. Moral degradation	48	4,8	54	5,4	62	6,2
11. Ecology	23	2,3	88	8,8	77	7,7
12. Other answers	61	6,1	63	6,3	90	9,0
13. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	4	0,4	3	0,3	1	0,1

These three foreground problems had no changes for all period of sociological monitoring since 2002. These are Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, poverty and unemployment. However, for the first time the problem of corruption occupied the third place on the results of poll 2008. This problem has been noticed by every third respondent. As regards the problems of unemployment and poverty, but as a result of economic growth and Job Creation Program realized by authorities (both real and widely propagandized by Mass Media), the number of respondents, who marked these problems was stably rolled down. Concernment of the problem of Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict on Nagorno-Karabakh doesn't decrease and remains the most actual in public opinion. As before the second group of three problems consists of bureaucracy arbitrariness (close to the problem of poverty), health care and education, crime. Arrangements, making by governments such as construction of roads, bridges and infrastructure are priority for 2,4 % of respondents. This is a consequence of projects realized in this area and decreased the topicality of this problem. On the other hand people don't realize a direct connection of infrastructure projects with reduction of unemployment.

3,2 % of respondents marked by own initiative the problems concerned with public service (supplying with gas, energy and water), 2,5 % - inflation and 1 % - drug addiction

Table 5. How has your financial position changed for the last year?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Improved greatly	32	3,2	35	3,5	44	4,4
2. Improved somewhat	301	30,1	302	30,2	203	20,3
3. Remained at the same level	457	45,7	435	43,5	493	49,3
4. Became worse somewhat	157	15,7	170	17,0	175	17,5
5. Became worse greatly	52	5,2	57	5,7	84	8,4
6. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	1	0,1	1	0,1	1	0,1
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

It is evident from answers distribution the most part of respondents are people whose financial conditions have stayed without any changes. The previous polls have showed the same results. Evidently the world financial crisis didn't reflect on population of Azerbaijan but some alarm signs are already obvious. If in previous polls the number of individuals, whose financial

position has improved, was one and a half times more than those, who stated about worsening of their living conditions, now these groups of respondents have equal showings (24,7% and 25,9 %). This is a sign of intense polarization of prosperity of population.

Table 6. How do you estimate the financial conditions of your family for the time being?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. We are able to meet all our requirements	95	9,5	64	6,4	65	6,5
2. We do not have financial difficulties	308	30,8	283	28,3	307	30,7
3. We barely make both ends meet	499	49,9	553	55,3	501	50,1
4. We suffer indigence	86	8,6	93	9,3	119	11,9
5. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	12	1,2	7	0,7	8	0,8
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

According to poll results more than a half of country population lives in poverty. 11,9% of respondents are even in destitution. At the same time if in previous years the number of these individuals was declining, by totals 2007 and 2008 one can see an inverse dynamics. It means that growth of incomes does not keep up with a runaway rise in prices. As in previous years about a third of respondents stated that did not have financial difficulties. This number is stable during last years and it points to stagnation of process of regeneration of average class in Azerbaijan.

Table 7. Does public utilities payment influence upon your family budget?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. No, we make payment easily	95	9,5	98	9,8	124	12,4
2. Yes, It affects the family budget	679	67,9	662	66,2	659	65,9
3. Yes, because we pay with big delays or do not pay at all	220	22,0	236	23,6	208	20,8
4. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	6	0,6	4	0,4	9	0,9
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

Distribution of the answers shows that rise in prices on electricity (three times) and water rate (two times) at the beginning of 2007 year lightly affected on ability of population to pay for public utilities. The population have adapted to new prices.

Table 8. Which part of your family budget is spent on foodstuff?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Almost the whole family budget is spent on foodstuff	510	51,0	449	44,9	515	51,5
2. Half of the family budget is spent on foodstuff	426	42,6	393	39,3	446	44,6
3. Less than a quarter of the family budget is spent on foodstuff	54	5,4	148	14,8	30	3,0
4. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	10	1,0	10	1,0	9	0,9
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

According to the answers distribution the share of funds that is spent on foodstuff has increased in family budget. Evidently this is a consequence of the fact that though population incomes are noticeably increasing, the growth of inflation is more intense.

9. What are you personally in need of most of all today? (no more than 3 answers accepted)

	February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Safety	179	17,9	195	19,5
2. Prosperity	372	37,2	456	45,6
3. Legality	414	41,4	381	38,1
4. Justice	380	38,0	364	36,4
5. Freedom	125	12,5	89	8,9
6. Solidarity	89	8,9	72	7,2
7. Equality	167	16,7	114	11,4
8. Fellowship	38	3,8	46	4,6
9. Unity	96	9,6	108	10,8
10. Tolerance	48	4,8	28	2,8
11. Stability	164	16,4	139	13,9
12. In order everybody in society know his own place	106	10,6	120	12,0
13. Respect for elders and authoritative people	60	6,0	76	7,6
14. Other:			43	4,3
15. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	7	0,7	2	0,2

As it's seen from the table if in previous polls the people were in need of legality and justice most of all, an impendent economic crisis put the prosperity on the first place. Nevertheless legality and justice requirement is high enough and occupied the second and the third places. Safety and stability as well as equality and freedom are the priorities of the second order. On the whole the answer distribution shows that conservative moods rather than liberal and socialistic are prevalent in public consciousness.

Table 10. What exactly from below-stated expresses do you agree with?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. It is necessary to speed up reforms in spite of heavy expenses	292	29,2	280	28,0	316	31,6
2. It is necessary to implement reforms without haste	431	43,1	428	42,8	375	37,5
3. We would rather go back to the situation existing in the Soviet times	135	13,5	149	14,9	113	11,3
4. Everything is unavailing	106	10,6	93	9,3	170	17,0
5. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	36	3,6	50	5,0	26	2,6
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

As it follows from answers distribution, according to the results of three polls, two thirds of respondents supports reforms and this number is rather more marked among the individuals having high level of education. Double growth (from 9,3 % to 17 %) of number of individuals disappointed in everything and supposing that everything is in vain attract one's attention. As the number of individuals lived in Soviet period is decreasing, the part of respondents who would like to go back to the situation existing in the Soviet times is reducing.

Table 11. What is needed to get success in Azerbaijan? (no more than 2 answers accepted)

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Power	222	22,2	255	25,5	206	20,6
2. Money	706	70,6	694	69,4	665	66,5
3. Powerful relatives and friends	311	31,	328	32,8	348	34,8
4. Good education	303	30,3	299	29,9	295	29,5
5. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	7	0,7	5	0,5	8	0,8

Respondents put money on the first place as a factor that ensures making great success in society. In a certain sense this fact visually reflects transformation of Azerbaijan from communist totalitarianism which was hypocritically disparaging a significance of money and property to market system. The factor of power occupies the last place. Probably it is the result of perception of the fact that though the power is an influential instrument of success in society but it can not be permanent by definition whereas money, education and powerful relatives are the factors that can be used without bound. Thus, regardless of widespread idea about “tribe” nature of Azerbaijani society, capitalistic morals and manners with their cult of “bean counter” begin to predominate.

Table 12. Which of below-stated statements do you agree more:

Democracy is the only acceptable form for contemporary State
Democracy is a great fraud

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. First statement is MUCH closer	307	30,7	271	27,1	215	21,5
2. First statement is PARTLY closer	340	34,0	350	35,0	374	37,4
3. Second statement MUCH closer	144	14,4	137	13,7	164	16,4
4. Second statement PARTLY closer	88	8,8	106	10,6	82	8,2
5. Do not agree with any statement	67	6,7	74	7,4	107	10,7
6. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	54	5,4	62	6,2	58	5,8
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

As it's seen from answers distribution adherents of democracy compose more than a half of respondents. But comparison of answers distribution by the results of all previous polls shows the reduction of this number. This tendency as well as an increase of number of those who refuse a context “democracy – antidemocracy” (individuals which do not agree with any statements) is noticeably less than it could be supposed in conditions of breach of human rights and freedom, electoral procedures etc., fixed by local and foreign observers.

Table 13. To what extent do you trust to following State and Social institutions?

	Fully trust			Partially trust			Do not trust			Find difficulties in replying		
	2006	2008	2009	2006	2008	2009	2006	2008	2009	2006	2008	2009
President	710 (71,0)	678 (67,8)	748 (74,8)	222 (22,2)	250 (25,0)	172 (17,2)	61 (6,1)	70 (7,0)	68 (6,8)	7 (0,7)	2 (0,2)	12 (1,2)
Parliament	167 (16,7)	217 (21,7)	246 (24,6)	432 (43,2)	390 (39,0)	421 (42,1)	383 (38,3)	390 (39,0)	326 (32,6)	18 (1,8)	3 (0,3)	7 (0,7)
Cabinet of Ministers	160 (16)	211 (21,1)	215 (21,5)	406 (40,6)	407 (40,7)	460 (46,0)	401 (40,1)	378 (37,8)	315 (31,5)	33 (3,3)	4 (0,4)	10 (1,0)
Courts	81 (8,1)	145 (14,5)	97 (9,7)	308 (30,8)	343 (34,3)	392 (39,2)	565 (56,5)	487 (48,7)	495 (49,5)	46 (4,6)	25 (2,5)	16 (1,6)
Law machinery	112 (11,2)	153 (15,3)	185 (18,5)	378 (37,8)	395 (39,5)	478 (47,8)	479 (47,9)	430 (43,0)	329 (32,9)	31 (3,1)	22 (2,2)	8 (0,8)
Army	389 (38,9)	399 (39,9)	557 (55,7)	409 (40,9)	412 (41,2)	342 (34,2)	189 (18,9)	178 (17,8)	94 (9,4)	13 (1,3)	11 (1,1)	7 (0,7)
Local Executive Authorities	168 (16,8)	134 (13,4)	183 (18,3)	353 (35,3)	417 (41,7)	458 (45,8)	457 (45,7)	441 (44,1)	356 (35,6)	22 (2,2)	8 (0,8)	3 (0,3)

Municipality	108 (10,8)	80 (8,0)	74 (7,4)	357 (35,7)	366 (36,6)	365 (36,5)	499 (49,9)	543 (54,3)	552 (55,2)	36 (3,6)	11 (1,1)	9 (0,9)
Political Parties	39 (3,9)	41 (4,1)	44 (4,4)	297 (29,7)	339 (33,9)	401 (40,1)	593 (59,3)	586 (58,6)	506 (50,6)	71 (7,1)	34 (3,4)	49 (4,9)
Trade Unions	45 (4,5)	44 (4,4)	40 (4,0)	297 (29,7)	292 (29,2)	346 (34,6)	529 (52,9)	575 (57,5)	526 (52,6)	129 (12,9)	89 (8,9)	88 (8,8)
NGOs	58 (5,8)	48 (4,8)	61 (6,1)	369 (36,9)	417 (41,7)	503 (50,3)	453 (45,3)	458 (45,8)	348 (34,8)	120 (12)	77 (7,7)	88 (8,8)
Religious Institutions	86 (8,6)	127 (12,7)	126 (12,6)	436 (43,6)	416 (41,6)	473 (47,3)	426 (42,6)	410 (41,0)	344 (34,4)	52 (5,2)	47 (4,7)	57 (5,7)
Mass Media	146 (14,6)	179 (17,9)	184 (18,4)	651 (65,1)	593 (59,3)	621 (62,1)	180 (18)	220 (22,0)	176 (17,6)	23 (2,3)	8 (0,8)	19 (1,9)

According to the results of this and previous polls President keeps leadership in level of trust. Almost two thirds of respondents fully trust to President. Though the level of confidence in Parliament and Local Executive Authorities was slightly increased by totals of last poll, it still remains very low. One can assert that stability of different levels of power in Azerbaijan and all the authoritative pyramid is provided by force of compulsion and by trust of population to the head of state. Army and Mass Media occupy the second and the third places according to level of confidence.

Though in comparison with previous years the trust to the system of law machinery was slightly increased, almost a half of respondents stated about their distrust to the Courts and this showing still remains on a very low level. The attitude of population to municipalities may be called as total distrust. As for public institutions, one can observe some increasing of confidence to religious institutions and NGOs. At the same time more than a half of respondents expressed distrust to the trades unions and parties.

Table 14. How do you think who can really change situation in Azerbaijan for the better?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Strong leader	434	43,4	574	57,4	517	51,7
2. Strong party	18	1,8	55	5,5	11	1,1
3. Good laws	366	36,6	205	20,5	290	29,0
4. People themselves	153	15,3	132	13,2	144	14,4
5. No one	24	2,4	30	3,0	32	3,2
6. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	5	0,5	4	0,4	6	0,6
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

Answers distribution shows that “chieftain” states are prevalent in Azerbaijan. The public attitude to such important institution in conditions of pluralistic democracy as a party is not only very cool, but it borders with full neglect. It completely accords with answers the previous question, where trust to parties in the country is on a very low position.

Though by totals of previous polls one can observe noticeable variations in comprehension of significance of strong laws for stability and society development, but on the whole this factor occupies the second position in respondents’ preferences.

Table 15. Please, indicate the main source of information about politics and government activities in your country (no more than 3 answers accepted in each category)

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
Newspapers						
1. Yeni Musavat	50	5,0	56	5,6	42	4,2
2. Azerbaijan	40	4,0	35	3,5	41	4,1
3. Nedelya	8	0,8	9	0,9	29	2,9

4. Echo	13	1,3	11	1,1	28	2,8
5. Khalg	22	2,2	24	2,4	24	2,4
6. Azadliq	29	2,9	37	3,7	22	2,2
7. Respublika	20	2,0	7	0,7	18	1,8
8. Ayna	16	1,6	3	0,3	15	1,5
9. Zerkalo	24	2,4	15	1,5	13	1,3
Azerbaijan TV channels						
1. AzTV	313	31,3	298	29,8	236	23,6
2. ANS	670	67,0	741	74,1	676	67,6
3. ATV	222	22,2	351	35,1	269	26,9
4. Lider	337	33,7	318	31,8	176	17,6
5. Space	197	19,7	172	17,2	112	11,2
6. Public TV (ITV)	150	15,0	239	23,9	290	29,0
7. Khazar TV	-	-	24	2,4	288	28,8
Foreign TV channels						
1. RTR - Russia	94	9,4	19	1,9	32	3,2
2. ORT "1 channel"	68	6,8	42	4,2	28	2,8
3. TRT	31	3,1	43	4,3	72	7,2
4. Channel D	9	0,9	36	3,6	40	4,0
5. NTV Russia	10	1,0	33	3,3	33	3,3
Azerbaijan radio channels						
1. ANS CM - 102 FM	39	3,9	50	5,0	25	2,5
2. Space - 104 FM	6	0,6			5	0,5
3. 106 FM	14	1,4	19	1,9	28	2,8
4. Azad Azerbaijan - 106,3 FM	5	0,5	9	0,9	3	0,3
5. Lider - 107 FM	2	0,2	1	0,1	6	0,6
6. Burc FM	14	1,4	12	1,2	8	0,8
7. Antenn - 101 FM	-	-	1	0,1	8	0,8
8. Public radio	7	0,7	4	0,4	3	0,3
9. Khazar					5	0,5
Talks to friends and neighbors	253	25,3	292	29,2	229	22,9
Other sources - Internet	9	0,9	28	2,8	6	0,6
I am not interested	57	5,7	57	5,7	99	9,9

As it follows from answers distribution the main source of information is national TV broadcasting. Among the Azerbaijan channels ANS is holding the first place by totals of three polls. The second and the third positions are occupied by Public Channel (ITV) and Khazar TV. ATV, AzTV and especially LIDER have notably lost their auditorium. TRT -a singular channel which has kept the broadcasting among the foreign channels and Turkish Channel-D which are being broadcasted by satellite antenna or cable outrun Russian ORT– the First channel and NTV. On the whole there is a weakening of positions of foreign channels, which are inferior to local channels as a source of information.

Among the readers of newspapers the men are prevail. Women prefer using Internet as a source of latest news. Among the newspapers "Yeni Musavat" is in the lead. By totals of last poll «Azerbaijan» government newspaper is occupying the second place as a source of information. Weekly "Nedelya" is in the lead among the newspapers in Russian. Among daily newspapers «Echo» is more popular than "Zerkalo".

In spite of their availability as informative sources radio channels both local and foreign look inconclusive. They are inferior in their popularity not only to TV channels, but newspapers too. ANS CM and 106 FM are an exception in this case. Rating of foreign radio channels is not being defined after termination of their broadcasting. About a quarter of respondents marked the talks with friends and neighbors as a source of information. Despite the development of Internet the number of individuals who mentioned it as a source of information was reduced. A significant growth of number of respondents stated that they were not interested in information about political and public events attract one's attention.

Table 16. Do you participate in country politics in any of following ways?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. I am a member of political party	81	8,1	79	7,9	100	10,0
2. I work actively in public organizations	13	1,3	13	1,3	10	1,0
3. I attend meetings, different public events	3	0,3	19	1,9	3	0,3
4. I discuss social-political events with my relatives, neighbors, and friends	135	13,5	164	16,4	121	12,1
5. I keep up with politics from Mass Media passively	480	48,0	505	50,5	441	44,1
6. In am not interested in politics	263	26,3	208	20,8	320	32,0
7. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	25	2,5	12	1,2	5	0,5
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

As it is seen from answers distribution, only every tenth individual could be considered as a politically active part of population. The part of those, who are a member of NGOs is strongly low. The smallest quantity of respondents attends meeting and public events. By totals of three polls one can see that the largest group is the people who passively keep up with politics from Mass Media. One can observe a considerable growth of respondents (almost the third part from general number of poll's participants) stated that were not interested in politics.

Table 17. Do you consider yourself as religious man?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
I am a deep believer, know and carry out all the religious prescriptions	72	7,2	67	6,7	94	9,4
I believe religion, I have a notion about religious prescriptions, but I carry out them selectively	401	40,1	449	44,9	389	38,9
I believe religion, but I do not know about religious issues. I do not follow religious prescriptions	497	49,7	457	45,7	505	50,5
I am atheist	11	1,1	10	1,0	4	0,4
I do not want to answer this question	19	1,9	17	1,7	8	0,8
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

Answer distribution shows that the part of atheists is insignificant value. The number of respondents, considering themselves deeply religious people is not high, but it was increased by totals of this poll. In summary the number of believe persons who carry out the religious prescriptions completely and partially is stable by totals of all three polls and makes almost a half of respondents. Nevertheless the largest group is individuals with non religious nature.

Table 18. What values in your opinion should predominate in Azerbaijani society?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Traditional-national	736	73,6	756	75,6	750	75,0
2. Soviet-communist	92	9,2	95	9,5	53	5,3
3. Liberal-capitalists	85	8,5	45	4,5	52	5,2
4. Islamic	72	7,2	74	7,4	130	13,0
6. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	13	1,3	24	2,4	15	1,5
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

Although liberal values of market economy and pluralistic democracy in state and society organization are fixed in Azerbaijan constitution, however, the majority of respondents support the traditional national values. And if the number of individuals who feel nostalgic about soviet communist past was reduced, the part of followers of Moslem values was increased by totals of this poll.

Table 19. What are the reasons of opposition weakness in Azerbaijan? (no more than 3 answers accepted)

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Insufficient financial support	79	7,9	120	12,0	52	5,2
2. Pressure on the part of authorities	184	15,8	190	19,0	160	16,0
3. Personal arrogance of the leaders	288	24,8	299	29,9	261	26,1
4. Weak communication with electorate	73	3,8	162	16,2	114	11,4
5. Lack of development of organizational structures locally	58	2,3	86	8,6	60	6,0
6. Scantiness in access to TV	125	2,6	150	15,0	113	11,3
7. Uncertainty of ideology and political platform	119	5,2	139	13,9	113	11,3
8. Excessive hope for international support	103	2,4	111	11,1	102	10,2
9. Lack of inner party democracy	62	1,3	98	9,8	81	8,1
10. No unity	21	1,1	233	23,3	299	29,9
11. I do not consider opposition a weak	76	7,1	84	8,4	83	8,3
12. Find difficulty in replying	257	25,7	115	11,5	172	17,2

This question seemed to be complicated enough for respondents, and a part of respondents found difficulties in replying this question in all three polls is high enough. As regards the reasons, in respondent's opinion the opposition weakness first of all comes out from excessive arrogance of its leaders and absence of unity. "Pressure of authorities", "insufficient financial support" and "restriction of access to TV" were stated by respondents as the factors of opposition weakness in smaller number. The respondents noted the fact of "uncertainty of ideology and political platform" and "weak communication with electorate" too. Regarding external factors the number of individuals supposing that they are vital, is stable, but not high. Only 8-10 % of respondents stated that Azerbaijani opposition was not weak.

Table 20. Do you believe in necessity of dialogue between authorities and opposition?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Yes, surely	350	35,0	340	34,0	416	41,6
2. If it takes place - well, if not - it is not frightful	413	41,3	434	43,4	289	28,9
3. Our people can not and do not want to carry on the dialogue	185	18,5	206	20,6	251	25,1
4. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	52	5,2	20	2,0	44	4,4
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

As it follows from answers distribution the idea of dialogue between authorities and opposition is considered as positive in respondents' opinion, and the number of individuals who support this idea was notably increased in last poll. Although for the last time factual attempts to begin a dialogue were not made, nevertheless, this idea is still popular. Therefore there is a positive public background for such initiatives from the direction of authorities as well as from opposition or neutral structures and it should be used.

Table 21. Do you think that Ilham Aliyev should:

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Renew his administration and government more emphatically	506	50,6	531	53,1	588	58,8
2. Renew the staff circumspectly	432	43,2	414	41,4	356	35,6
3. Find difficulty in replying	62	6,2	55	5,5	56	5,6
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

As one can see from the table the overwhelming majority of respondents stated that a renewal of administration and government staff was necessary measure. More than a half of individuals suppose that the President should do this more emphatically and this number is increasing.

Table 22. Do you assume that there could be mass protest actions in the country (region) within the next few months?

	Yes			Most likely, yes			Most likely, no			No			Find difficulties in replying		
	2006	2008	2009	2006	2008	2009	2006	2008	2009	2006	2008	2009	2006	2008	2009
In country	23 (2,3)	81 (8,1)	22 (2,2)	109 (10,9)	147 (14,7)	38 (3,8)	271 (27,1)	283 (28,3)	269 (26,9)	575 (57,5)	478 (47,8)	664 (66,4)	22 (2,2)	11 (1,1)	7 (0,7)
In region	11 (1,1)	63 (6,3)	14 (1,4)	84 (8,4)	110 (11,0)	26 (2,6)	229 (22,9)	297 (29,7)	272 (27,2)	653 (65,3)	522 (52,2)	681 (68,1)	23 (2,3)	8 (0,8)	7 (0,7)

The table shows, that majority of respondents doesn't expect initiation of mass protest actions either in the country or in the region and this number was increased by totals of last poll.

Table 23. How would you most probably react in case of initiation of mass protest actions in your city / region?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. I would join the protesting people	90	9,0	97	9,7	123	12,3
2. I would keep the neutrality	650	65,0	695	69,5	619	61,9
3. I would held the authorities to establish the order	148	14,8	154	15,4	178	17,8
4. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	112	11,2	54	5,4	80	8,0
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

Poll of 2009 as like as polls of 2006, 2007 fixed predominance among the respondents those who in case of initiation of mass protest actions prefer to stay at home. At the same time the number of people who declared their willingness to help authorities in all polls was prevailing of those who have nothing against joining the protesting people. The number of respondents who are ready to join the protesting people was increased by totals of last poll but this growth is in the limit of statistical error.

Table 24. Do you feel yourself in safe?

	Yes			Most likely, yes			Most likely, no			No			Find difficulties in replying		
	2006	2008	2009	2006	2008	2009	2006	2008	2009	2006	2008	2009	2006	2008	2009
Within surroundings	649 (64,9)	645 (64,5)	646 (64,6)	270 (27)	275 (27,5)	272 (27,2)	50 (5)	49 (4,9)	53 (5,3)	29 (2,9)	29 (2,9)	25 (2,5)	2 (0,2)	2 (0,2)	4 (0,4)
Within city / region	620 (62)	568 (56,8)	613 (61,3)	265 (26,5)	324 (32,4)	307 (30,7)	72 (7,2)	74 (7,4)	56 (5,6)	35 (3,5)	32 (3,2)	22 (2,2)	8 (0,8)	2 (0,2)	2 (0,2)
Within country	572 (57,2)	534 (53,4)	540 (54,0)	276 (27,6)	299 (29,9)	352 (35,2)	93 (9,3)	119 (11,9)	78 (7,8)	44 (4,4)	42 (4,2)	26 (2,6)	15 (1,5)	6 (0,6)	4 (0,4)

According to the results of all three polls, the vast majority of respondents feel themselves in safe at all levels, and variation in the responses by years is very little and close to expected statistical error of such sociological research.

Table 25. How do you evaluate perspectives in settlement of conflict on Nagorno-Karabakh?

	December 2006	February 2008	February 2009

	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. There will be progress in the peaceful settlement	384	38,4	316	31,6	358	35,8
2. The military operations will recommence	127	12,7	165	16,5	115	11,5
3. "No peace no war" situation will continues	467	46,7	488	48,8	517	51,7
4. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	22	2,2	31	3,1	10	1,0
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

It is evident from the table the majority of respondents are sure that current situation "no peace, no war" to be continued. Despite the assumption of politicians and diplomats, published in local and foreign Mass-Media about possibility in making progress in settlement of conflict on Nagorno-Karabakh, almost one third of respondents share this opinion. The minority of respondents concede a recommencement of military operations. The observed variations in the answers don't exceed a statistical figure for such sociological research.

Table 26. Which compromise in the case of status of Nagorno-Karabakh do you permit for peaceful settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Only cultural autonomy and local government	115	11,5	52	5,2	68	6,8
2. Autonomy is the analogy of what is in Nakhchivan	95	9,5	119	11,9	62	6,2
3. The most high autonomy existing in the world	37	3,7	41	4,1	9	0,9
4. Let a population of Nagorno-Karabakh solve by referendum on conditions that azerbaijani refugees will return to previous place of residence	111	11,1	98	9,8	127	12,7
5. To declare the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh and let them live like they want	4	0,4	19	1,9	1	0,1
6. Don't accept a compromise	594	59,4	623	62,3	708	70,8
7. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	44	4,4	48	4,8	25	2,5
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

The table shows - the majority of respondents don't accept a compromise at all and in the last poll this number was slightly increased. The co-chairmen of Minsk Group are right when call the society to be ready to compromise that is inevitable in the peaceful settlement of the conflict on Nagorno-Karabakh. As regards an acceptable choice every the eighth respondent (one-two years ago it was every the fifth respondent) agrees to give autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh (cultural, local and even "the most high"). At the same time the idea to solve this problem by referendum on the assumption of restitution of Azerbaijani refugees has got a quite significant support of 10-13 % of respondents. Independence for Nagorno-Karabakh is completely excluded.

Table 27. In your opinion which countries are friendly, neutral or enemy in respect of Azerbaijan? (no more than 3 answers accepted in each category)

Countries	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
Friendly						
Turkey	849	84,9	890	89,0	872	87,2
Russia	178	17,8	206	20,6	151	15,1
USA	59	5,9	57	5,7	42	4,2
Georgia	93	9,3	103	10,3	122	12,2
Ukraine	80	8,0	57	5,7	81	8,1
Iran	59	5,9	59	5,9	53	5,3
Pakistan	38	3,8	26	2,6	41	4,1
Germany	26	2,6	20	2,0	21	2,1
Saudi Arabia	13	1,3	8	0,8	13	1,3
Other countries	61	6,1	38	3,8	62	7,4
No such countries	16	1,6	20	2,0	29	2,9
Find difficulty in replying	19	1,9	2	0,2	16	1,6

Enemy						
Armenia	890	89,0	961	96,1	947	94,7
Iran	97	9,7	110	11,0	100	10,0
Russia	131	13,1	89	8,9	146	14,6
France	108	10,8	38	3,8	45	4,5
USA	31	3,1	26	2,6	38	3,8
Israel	0	0	0	0	24	2,4
Other countries	8	0,8	5	0,5	5	0,5

Respondents had a chance to call 3 countries from each category on their own. They showed maximal activity while defining friendly countries. Vast majority of respondents of three polls mentioned Turkey as a friendly country. It's rating some times more than total rating of countries, occupying following places and it continues to grow. Russia took the second position, but it's rating has notably reduced in comparison with previous year. As regards the third place, Azerbaijan's ally by GUAM - Georgia occupies this position by totals of this and previous polls. The next are Ukraine, Iran and the USA.

Armenia remains the most hostile state to Azerbaijan. Further follows Russia, ousted Iran from the second place to the third. Growth of negative moods concerning Russia, most likely, was caused by scandalous information burst at the moment of carrying out of research about gratuitous transfer of weapon to Armenia for the huge sum of 800 million dollars. Refutations and explanations of official Moscow have not seemed reliable to the respondents. For the first time Israel was in the list of states hostile to Azerbaijan. Most likely it is connected with recent operation of the Israeli army in Gaza Strip and arraignment in this occasion of Turkey and personally - prime-minister Erdogan.

Thus, if the positive attitude to Turkey and negative to Armenia has an absolute nature, in regard to Russia, Iran and partially the USA one can observe a significant polarization in public opinion.

Table 28. What country do you prefer as country to work and reside in case of leaving Azerbaijan? (no more than 3 countries could be mentioned)

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Country mentioned:	356	35,6	370	37,0	266	26,6
Russia	122	12,2	112	11,2	96	9,6
Turkey	94	9,4	115	11,5	67	6,7
Germany	63	6,3	70	7,0	58	5,8
USA	29	2,9	50	5,0	15	1,5
Great Britain	13	1,3	17	1,7	12	1,2
Holland	10	1,0	2	0,2	8	0,8
Canada	5	0,5	8	0,8	8	0,8
Switzerland	4	0,4	6	0,6	13	1,3
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	-	13	1,3
Iran	6	0,6	5	0,5	8	0,8
Ukraine	8	0,8	5	0,5	6	0,6
Sweden	12	1,2	7	0,7	7	0,7
Norway	6	0,6	5	0,5	5	0,5
France	8	0,8	10	1,0	6	0,6
Other countries	43	4,3	54	5,4	34	3,4
2. I will not leave Azerbaijan under any circumstances	631	63,1	620	62,0	702	70,2
3. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	13	1,3	10	1,0	32	3,2

As one can see from the table the part of those who think about leaving Azerbaijan has considerably decreased (about 10%) and now composes a little more a quarter of respondents. Russia and Turkey share the first and second places as the countries for work and residing.

Evidently, it is connected with possibility to immigrate in these countries and lack of language barrier. Germany is on the fourth place. However if to take the European Union countries, totally they advance both the Russian Federation, and Turkey.

Table 29. Which way of strengthening of international contacts and integration of Azerbaijan do you prefer?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. CIS	155	15,5	167	16,7	129	12,9
2. European Union	434	43,4	370	37,0	382	38,2
3. NATO	67	6,7	77	7,7	It is removed from the questionnaire	
4. Islam Conference Organization	76	7,6	69	6,9	72	7,2
5. To stay neutral and cooperate with the rest	242	24,2	272	27,2	379	37,9
6. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	26	2,6	45	4,5	38	3,8
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

Among the respondents who stated concrete favours regarding vector of geopolitical orientation the European Union is in the lead, although over-expectation concerning Euro-integration, originated after inclusion of Azerbaijan in ENP has somewhat decreased. Sympathies for CIS continue to decrease. The orientation on integration towards Islam Conference Organization is the lowest among all the preferences. The number of respondents who suppose that Azerbaijan should stay a neutral state and develop communications with foreign countries in all directions has noticeably increased (more than 10%) by totals of last poll. It could be connected with the fact that respondents' sympathies for CIS are decreasing, Islam Conference Organization is not an integration structure and possibility of integration of Azerbaijan into European Union is lacking.

Table 30. It is known, that there will be the referendum on making alterations in the Constitution of the Azerbaijan Republic in March. Are you going to participate in it?

	February 2009	
	Quantity	%
1. Yes, necessarily	627	62,7
2. I will act as authorities recommend	66	6,6
3. No	216	21,6
4. I did not hear about this referendum and while I do not know what to do	91	9,1

Taking into consideration, that propaganda campaign is not begun yet, a number of respondents who are going to participate in a referendum is high enough. If to add to their number of those who are ready to act as authorities recommend (they are initiators of referendum), problems with appearance on voting should not to be.

31. On a referendum it is proposed to repeal the position of the Constitution which limits a presidential term to 10 years. What do you think of it?

	February 2009	
	Quantity	%

1. I consider this initiative timely and I shall support it	450	45,0
2. I have no firm opinion yet, and would like to listen to arguments both pro, and con on this issue	241	24,1
3. I consider this proposal antidemocratic and strengthening an absolute rule	218	21,8
4. I grasp nothing in this issue and I find difficulty with replying	91	9,1

Answers' distribution shows, that the number of those who are ready to support the initiative of ruling party to remove restrictions on reelection of the president of Azerbaijan amounts to 45% and more than twice exceeds a number of opponents of the constitutional changes. However a quarter of poll's participants have stated that they had no firm opinion yet and were ready to listen to arguments of the parties. If to take into consideration that propaganda campaign did not start, though the position of supporters looks strong enough, however the positive result is not predetermined yet, and much will depend on cogency of arguments and on persons, sounding them.

32. Here are 10 years as municipalities were created in Azerbaijan. How do you evaluate their role in the local problems solving?

	February 2009	
	Quantity	%
1. Extremely low. It is a decorative appendage of executive power	581	58,1
2. Average. Basically, municipalities are necessary and they tried to do something, but were not formed properly	335	33,5
3. Highly. Within the limits of powers and financial resources which are defined for municipalities, they do a maximum of possible	53	5,3
4. I find difficulty with replying	31	3,1

The low trust to the municipalities, expressed by respondents in question #13 corresponds with answers to this question, where overwhelming majority of respondents estimate their role in Azerbaijan extremely low, considering them as a decorative appendage of an executive power. At the same time, a third of poll's participants estimate the ability of municipalities to solve the local problems on an average level, supposing that they do a maximum of possible within the limits of available powers and financial resources.

33. How the local government should be reformed to raise their role and authority?(no more than 3 answers accepted)

	February 2009	
	Quantity	%
1. To enlarge the municipalities	108	10,8
2. To hold the elections in municipalities really democratically	224	22,4
3. To hold a direct elections of chiefs of municipalities by population	199	19,9
4. To abolish the representatives of an executive power on places and to delegate authority to municipalities	50	5,0
5. To extend the financial powers of municipalities	173	17,3
6. To strengthen the municipalities activity control from the direction of population	268	26,8
7. To raise the activity transparency of municipalities	315	31,5

8. To overcome corruption in municipalities resolutely	437	43,7
9. I find difficulty with replying	72	7,2

The majority of respondents (43,7 percent) consider necessary to overcome corruption in municipalities to raise their role and authority. The followings in importance were two interrelated factors: the raise of transparency (31,5 percent) and the strengthening of social control (26,8 percent) of their activity. Further the poll's participants put the improvement of mechanism of forming of municipalities: holding a democratic election and a direct election of heads of local government. An expansion of financial powers of municipalities was also important (17,3 percent). As regards the reorganization of all structure of local control it remained at the periphery of respondents' attention.

Table 34. How do you imagine the future of Azerbaijan?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Situation in the country will soon improved	537	53,7	509	50,9	458	45,8
2. I think, there will not be significant changes	348	34,8	422	42,2	445	44,5
3. Situation will soon become worse	81	8,1	44	4,4	86	8,6
4. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	34	3,4	25	2,5	11	1,1
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

Findings of three polls show that the number of optimists is prevalent. But their number was slightly decreased by totals of last poll. At the same time the part of respondents who expect the worsening of situation in the country was increased twice. Evidently, oil price reduction and economical crisis burst in the world had a pessimistic effect on public moods.

Table 35. How do you imagine your own future?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. My position will soon improve	470	47,0	442	44,2	352	35,2
2. I think, there will not be significant changes	412	41,2	442	44,2	504	50,4
3. My position will soon become worse	81	8,1	69	6,9	117	11,7
4. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	37	3,7	47	4,7	27	2,7
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

It is evident from answer distribution respondents take more cautious position while estimating their own future, than it was in the answer the previous question concerning the prospects of the country. A half of respondents suppose that there will not be significant changes in their position. Though a part of optimists was decreased more than 10 %, they make a little more a third of poll's participants. A significant number of those who expect the worsening of their position attract one's attention. Thus the economical crisis observing in the world had an effect not only on the country but also on respondents themselves too.

Social and demographic characteristics:

Gender:

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Male	547	54,7	513	51,3	500	50,0
2. Female	453	45,3	487	48,7	500	50,0
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

Age:

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
18-25 years	205	20,5	124	12,4	119	11,9
26-35 years	234	23,4	217	21,7	209	20,9
36-50 years	372	37,2	414	41,4	365	36,5
51 year and old	189	18,9	245	24,5	307	30,7
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

Marital status:

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Married	768	76,8	745	74,5	767	76,7
2. Single	163	16,3	185	18,5	138	13,8
3. Divorce (divorcee)	10	1,0	24	2,4	21	2,1
4. Widower (widow)	59	5,9	45	4,5	73	7,3
5. Refuse to answer	-	-	1	0,1	1	0,1
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

Nationality:

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Azerbaijani	959	95,9	914	91,4	926	92,6
2. Russian	9	0,9	15	1,5	22	2,2
3. Lezghin	26	2,6	34	3,4	27	2,7
4. Avar	-	-	3	0,3	2	0,2
5. Tatar	4	0,4	5	0,5	2	0,2
6. Talish	-	-	12	1,2	17	1,7
7. Other	2	0,2	17	1,7	4	0,4
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

Education:

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Primary	24	2,4	21	2,1	30	3,0
2. Secondary	438	43,8	444	44,4	477	47,7
3. Secondary special	241	24,1	243	24,3	231	23,1
4. Higher and uncompleted higher	297	29,7	292	29,2	262	26,2
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

Social group:

	December 2006	February 2008	February 2009
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	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Worker	125	12,5	138	13,8	122	12,2
2. Office worker	196	19,6	254	25,4	212	21,2
3. Intelligence	88	8,8	38	3,8	55	5,5
4. Student	42	4,2	42	4,2	39	3,9
5. Housewives	159	15,9	162	16,2	165	16,5
6. Pensioner	127	12,7	111	11,1	131	13,1
7. Businessmen	53	5,3	41	4,1	44	4,4
8. Servicemen	1	0,1	6	0,6	3	,3
9. Farmer	87	8,7	71	7,1	62	6,2
10. Unemployed	122	12,2	137	13,7	167	16,7
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

Do you consider yourself as a refugee or forced migrant?

	December 2006		February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Refugee	12	1,2	22	2,2	24	2,4
2. Forced migrant	37	3,7	27	2,7	17	1,7
3. I do not	951	95,1	951	95,1	959	95,9
Total	1000	100,0	1000	100,0	1000	100,0

Indicate the cumulative monthly income of your family (calculations for one member of the family)

	February 2008		February 2009	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1. Less than 60 manat	488	48,8	192	19,2
2. From 60 up to 100 manat	337	33,7	263	26,3
3. From 100 up to 200 manat	122	12,2	254	25,4
4. From 200 up to 500 manat	41	4,1	235	23,5
5. More than 500 manat	2	0,2	21	2,1
6. Find difficulty in replying / refuse to answer	10	1,0	35	3,5
Total	1000	100	1000	100

Conclusion and summary

1. Based on the results of sociological monitoring one can conclude that in total situation in Azerbaijan is stable. The absolute majority of poll's participants don't expect initiation of mass protest actions. The vast majority of respondents feel themselves in safe both in the country and in their own region. The positive feelings about living in Azerbaijan are prevalent. At the same time by totals of 2008 one can observe a growth in number of respondents characterizing their feelings about life in Azerbaijan by the words *fear, uncertainty, disappointment and despair*, though these individuals make a stable group in the interval of 11-13%. These are outsiders who didn't experience an observed economic growth in the country but suffer from attendant inflation.
2. Welfare standards of population were improving during last year. The world financial crisis didn't reflect on population of Azerbaijan but some alarm signs are already obvious. If in previous polls the number of individuals, whose financial position has improved was one and a half times more than those who stated about worsening of their living conditions, now these groups have equal showing. This is a sign of intense polarization of prosperity of country population. According to poll results more than a half of country population lives in poverty. 11,9% of respondents are even in destitution. At the same time if in previous years the number of these respondents was declining, by totals 2007 and 2008 one can see an inverse dynamics.
3. For all period of sociological monitoring since 2002 there are 3 primary problems which population is troubled by: Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, unemployment and poverty. However for the first time the problem of corruption occupied the third place by the results of poll 2008. This problem has been noticed by every third respondent. As regards the problems of unemployment and poverty, but as a result of economic growth and Job Creation Program realized by authorities (both real and widely propagandized by Mass Media), the number of respondents, who marked these problems was stably rolled down. Concernment of the problem of Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict on Nagorno-Karabakh doesn't decrease and remains the most actual in public opinion. As before the second group of three problems consists of bureaucracy arbitrariness (close to the problem of poverty), health care and education, crime. If in previous polls the people were in need of legality and justice most of all, an impendent economic crisis put the prosperity on the first place. Nevertheless legality and justice requirement is high enough and occupied the second and the third places. Safety and stability as well as equality and freedom are the priorities of the second order. The conservative moods rather than liberal and socialistic are prevalent in public consciousness.
4. Population does not trust to optimistic statements about progress in the settlement of conflict on Nagorno-Karabakh. The majority of respondents suppose that the situation "no peace no war" will continue. The poll confirmed the validity of recommendations given by co-chairmen of Minsk Group to prepare a society for compromise that is inevitable in the peaceful settlement of the conflict on Nagorno-Karabakh. The majority of respondents (about 70%) don't accept a compromise in this issue. As regards an acceptable choice almost the every eighth respondent (one-two years ago it was the every fifth respondent) agrees to give autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh (cultural, local and even "the most high"). At the same time the idea to solve this problem by referendum on the assumption of restitution of Azerbaijanian refugees got a quite significant support of respondents (up to 13%). Independence for Nagorno-Karabakh is completely excluded.

5. According to the results of this and previous polls President keeps leadership in level of trust. Almost the two thirds of respondents fully trust to President. Though the level of confidence in Parliament and Local Executive Authorities was slightly increased by totals of last poll, it still remains very low. One can assert that stability of different levels of power in Azerbaijan and all the authoritative pyramid is provided by force of compulsion and by trust of population to the head of state. Army and Mass Media occupy the second and the third places according to level of confidence. Though in comparison with previous years the trust to the system of law machinery was slightly increased, almost a half of respondents stated about their distrust to them and especially to the Courts and this showing still remains on a very low level. Attitude of population to municipalities may be called as total distrust. As for public institutions, one can observe some increasing of confidence to religious institutions and NGOs. At the same time more than a half of respondents expressed distrust to the trades unions and parties.
6. Taking into consideration the coming municipal election it should be noted that overwhelming majority of respondents estimated their role in Azerbaijan extremely low, considering them as a decorative appendage of an executive power. At the same time, a third of poll's participants estimate an ability of municipalities to solve the local problems on an average level, supposing that they do a maximum of possible within the limits of available powers and financial resources. The majority of respondents (43,7 percent) consider necessary to overcome corruption in municipalities to raise their role and authority. The followings in importance were two interrelated factors: the raise of transparency (31,5 percent) and the strengthening of social control (26,8 percent) of their activity. Further the poll's participants put the improvement of mechanism of forming of municipalities: holding a democratic election and a direct election of heads of local government. An expansion of financial powers of municipalities was also important (17,3 percent). As regards the reorganization of all structure of local control it remained at the periphery of attention of respondents.
7. "Chieftain" states of public opinion are prevalent in Azerbaijan and the possible positive changes in the country are connected with the personality of "strong leader". The public attitude to such important institution in conditions of pluralistic democracy as a party is not only very cool, but it borders with full neglect.
8. The public state in favour of renovation of Government is large and has tendency to growth. Reformatory majority absolutely predominate in all the groups of population. Double growth (from 9,3 % to 17 %) of number of individuals disappointed in everything and supposing that everything is in vain attract one's attention. Despite the difficulties in democracy development, its adherents make a stable majority. Only the tenth part of population is active politically and socially. Society basically does not have strongly pronounced sensible ideological preferences and prefers indefinite traditional and national values. One can observe a considerable growth of respondents (almost the third part from general number of poll's participants) stated that were not interested in politics. The opposition loses the political positions because in public opinion it is not enough organized, does not dispose of resources, has personal arrogance of their leaders and is under pressure of authorities. But nevertheless the idea of dialogue of political departments of the country keeps positive perception in public opinion.
9. About two thirds of respondents stated that they were going to participate in referendum on making alterations in the Constitution of the Azerbaijan Republic. The number of those who are ready to support the initiative of ruling party to remove restrictions on reelection of the president of Azerbaijan amounts to 45% and more than twice exceeds a number of

opponents of the constitutional changes. However a quarter of poll's participants have stated that they had no firm opinion yet and were ready to listen to arguments of the parties. If to take into consideration that propaganda campaign did not start, though the position of supporters looks strong enough, however the positive result is not predetermined yet, and much will depend on cogency of arguments and on persons, sounding them.

10. The main source of information for population remains the local TV broadcasting. ANS is holding the first place among the TV and radio channels by totals of three polls. The second and the third positions are occupied by Public Channel (ITV) and Khazar TV. Radio channels are not so popular and only ANS CM and 106 FM have success among population. Less than the tenth part of respondents reads newspapers. Among the newspapers "Yeni Musavat" is in the lead in the course of many years. By totals of last poll «Azerbaijan» government newspaper is occupying the second place as a source of information. About a quarter of respondents marked the talks with friends and neighbors as a source of information. Despite the development of Internet the number of individuals who mentioned it as a source of information was reduced. A significant growth of number of respondents stated that they were not interested in information about political and public events attracts one's attention.
11. By totals of three polls the largest group consists of individuals whose nature is non religious. At the same time the totals of last poll showed a some growth (from 7,4% to 13%) of followers of Moslem values, norms of behavior and life as well as Moslem model of organization of state and public life.
12. Among friendly countries to Azerbaijan undisputed leader is Turkey. Among hostile countries it is Armenia. As regards Russia and Iran there is a profound polarization in public opinion. Russia occupies the second- the third places as friendly countries to Azerbaijan and as hostile countries too. One can observe a growth of friendly favour to Azerbaijan's allies by GUAM - Georgia and Ukraine. European Union is the most attractive integration union in public opinion though the last poll fixed a growth of number of respondents supposing that Azerbaijan should stay the neutral country.

Appendix

Diagram # 1. Respondents' estimation of social and political situation in Azerbaijan

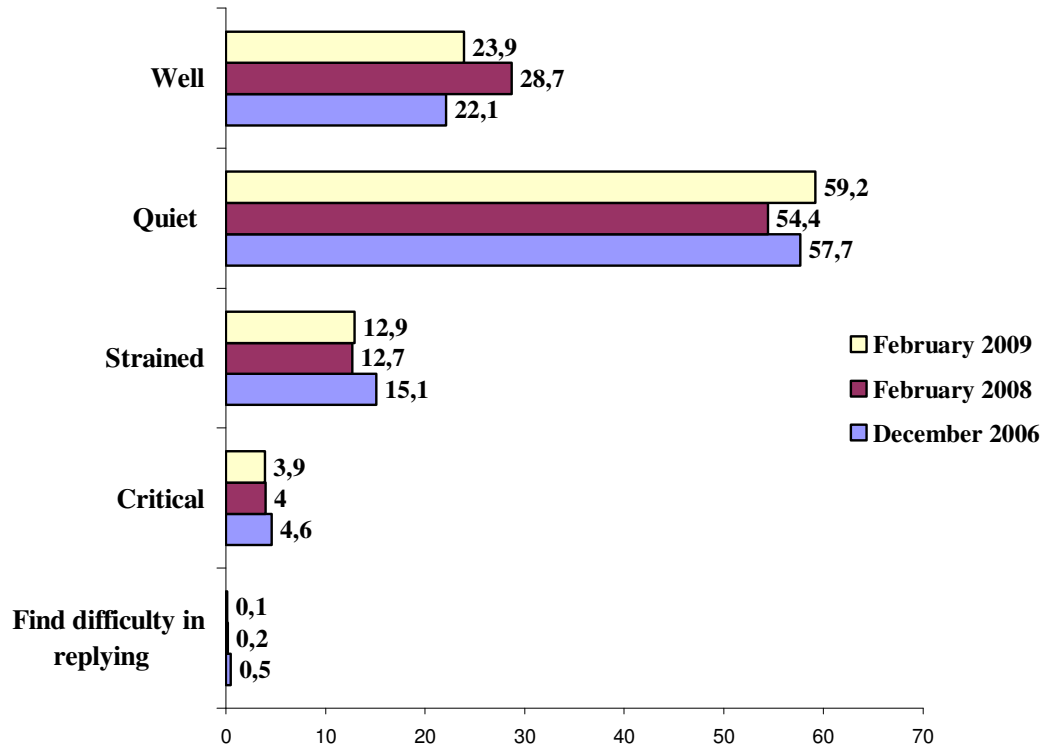


Diagram # 2. Respondents' opinion regarding social and political development of Azerbaijan

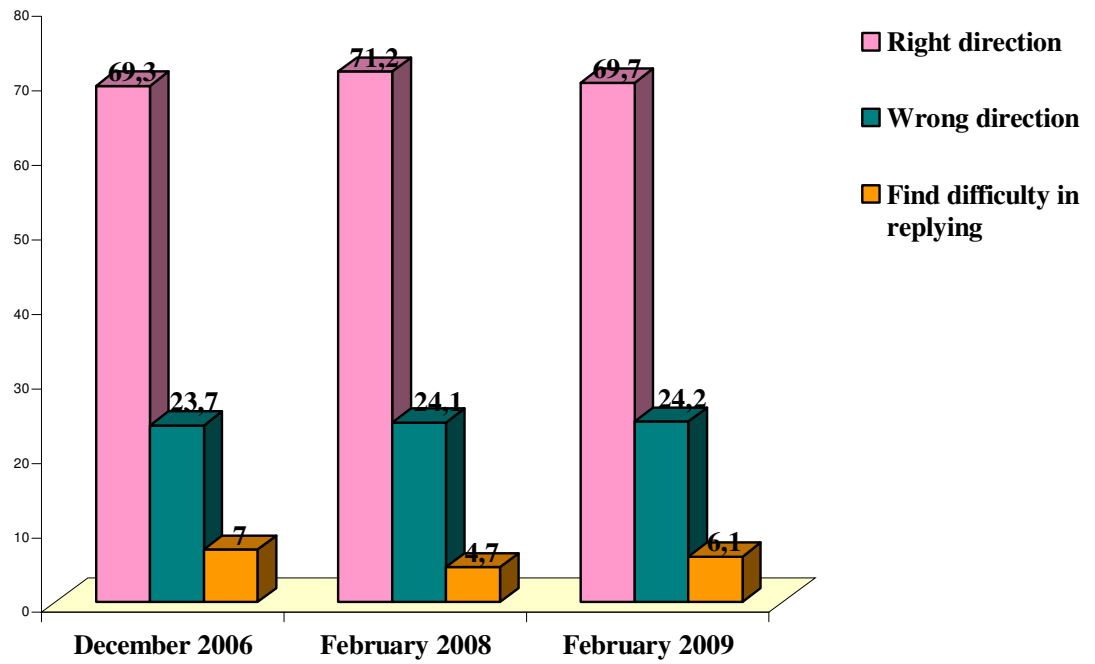


Diagram # 3. Dynamics of changing of respondents' financial position

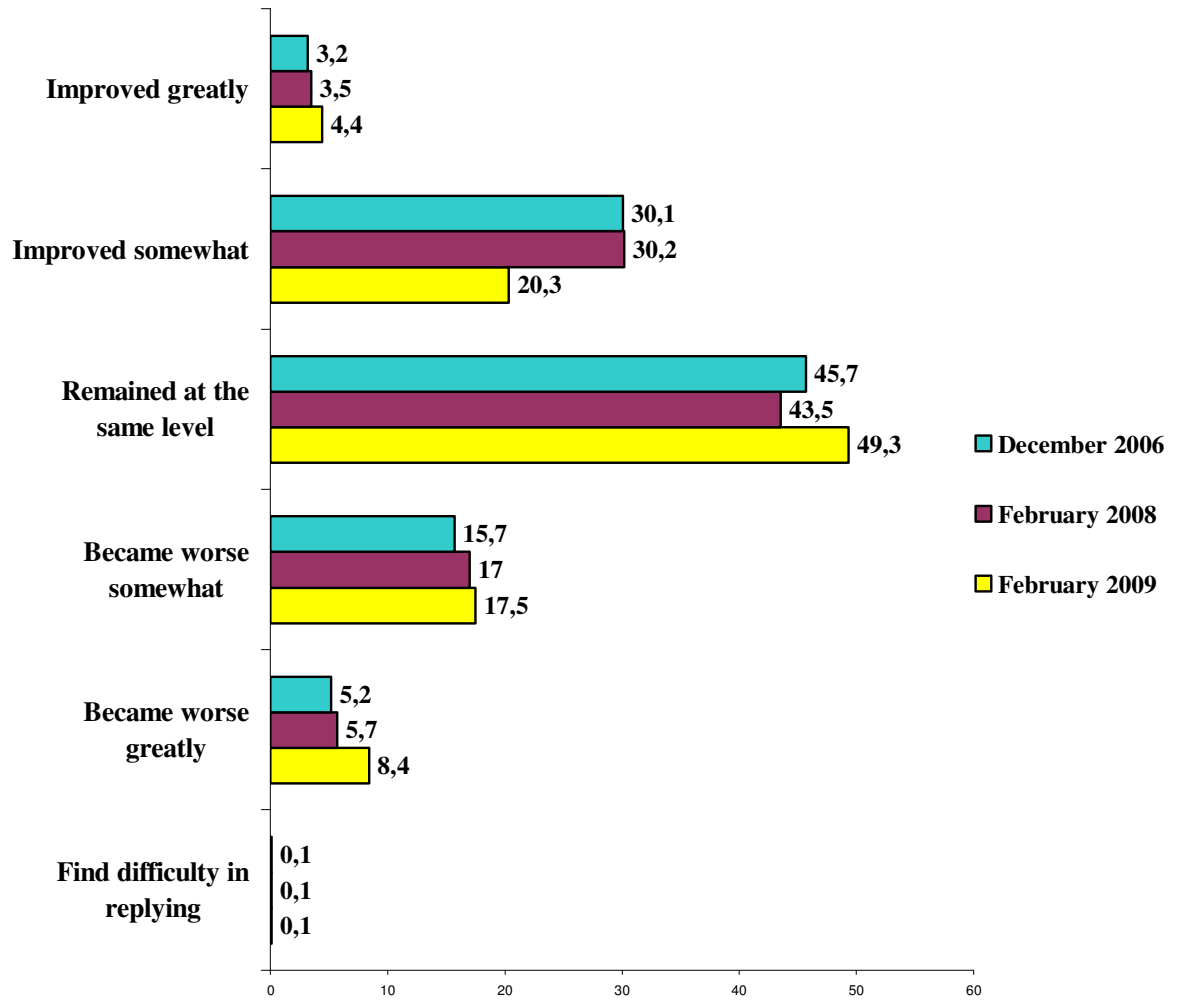


Diagram # 4. Characteristic of respondents' financial position in the period of research

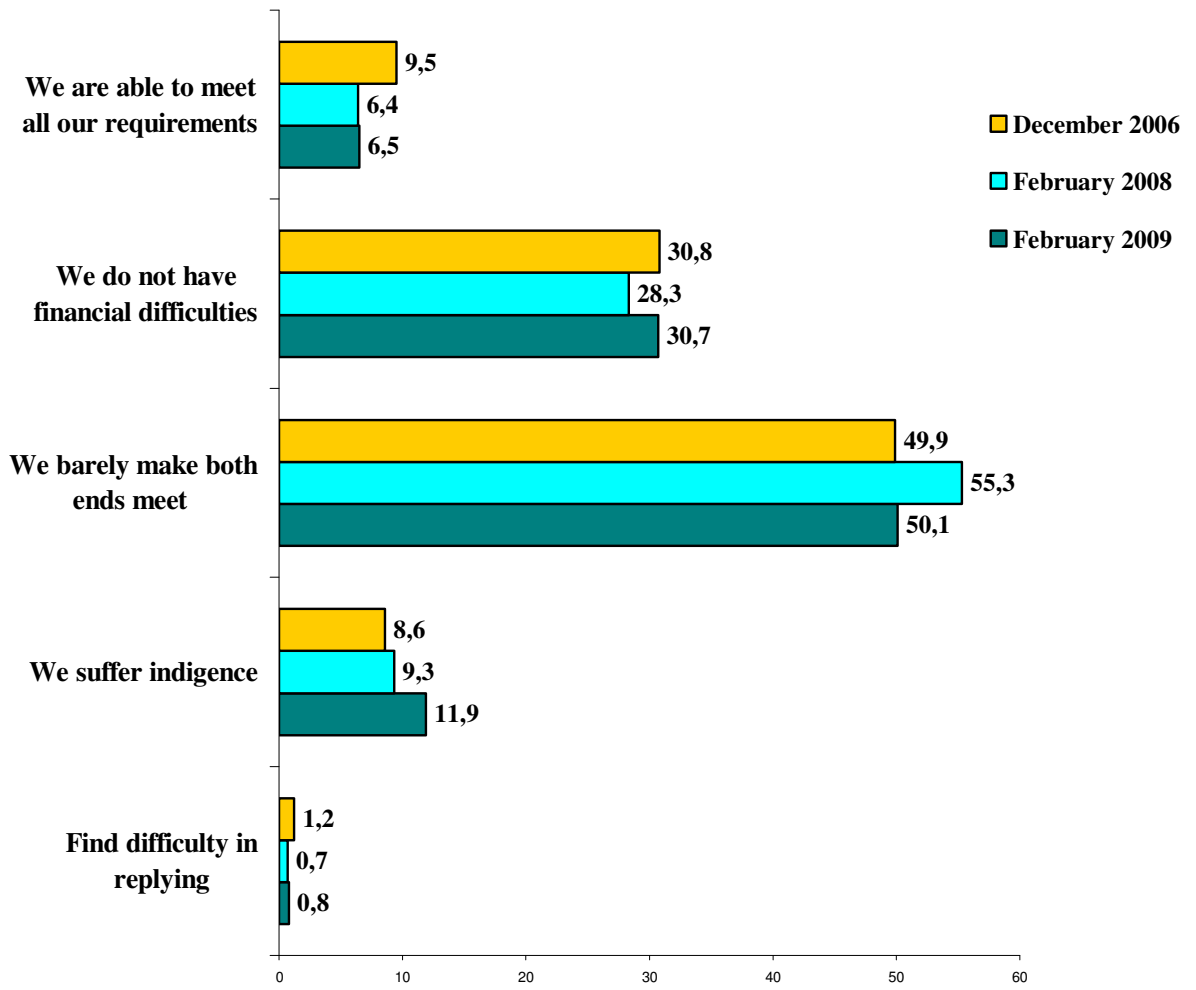


Diagram # 5. Respondents' opinion about social and economic reforms

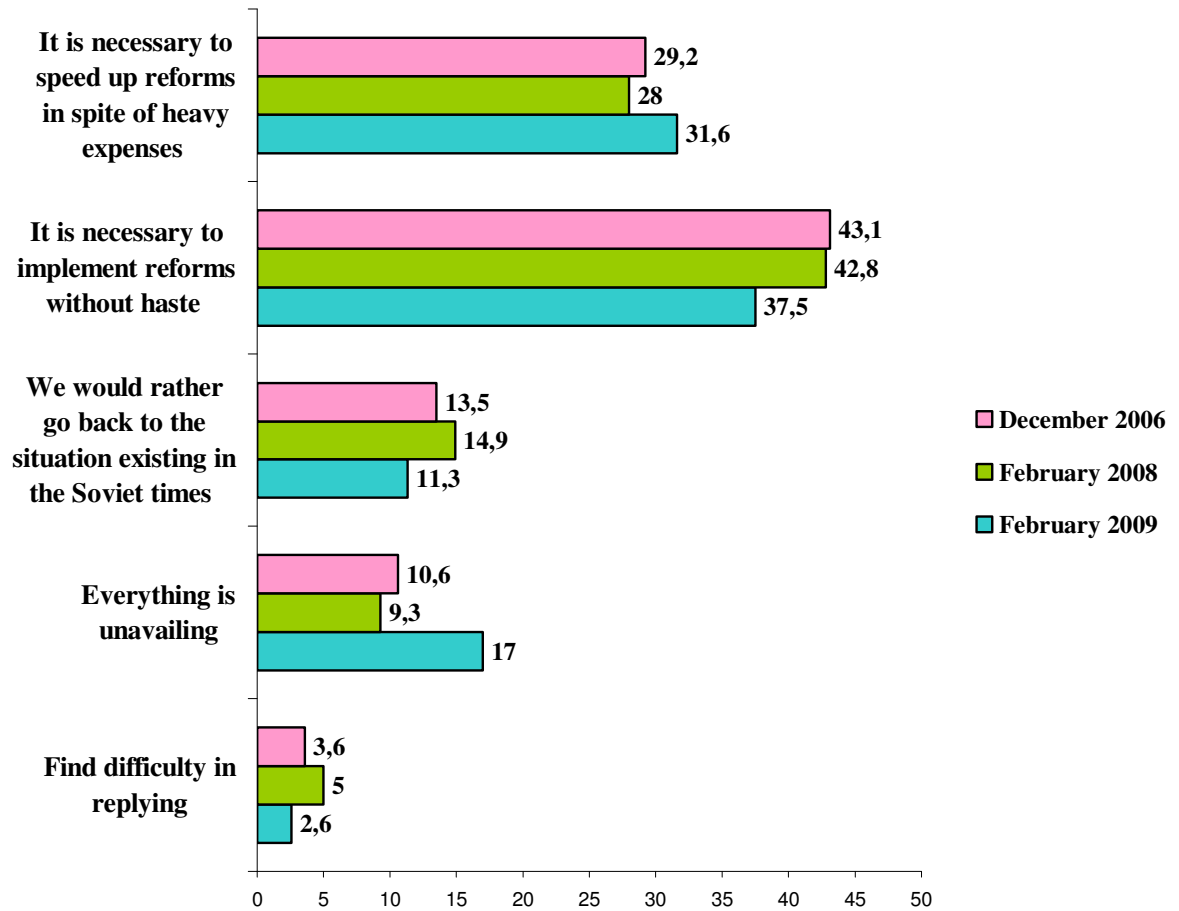


Diagram # 6. Essential factors to achieve success in Azerbaijan

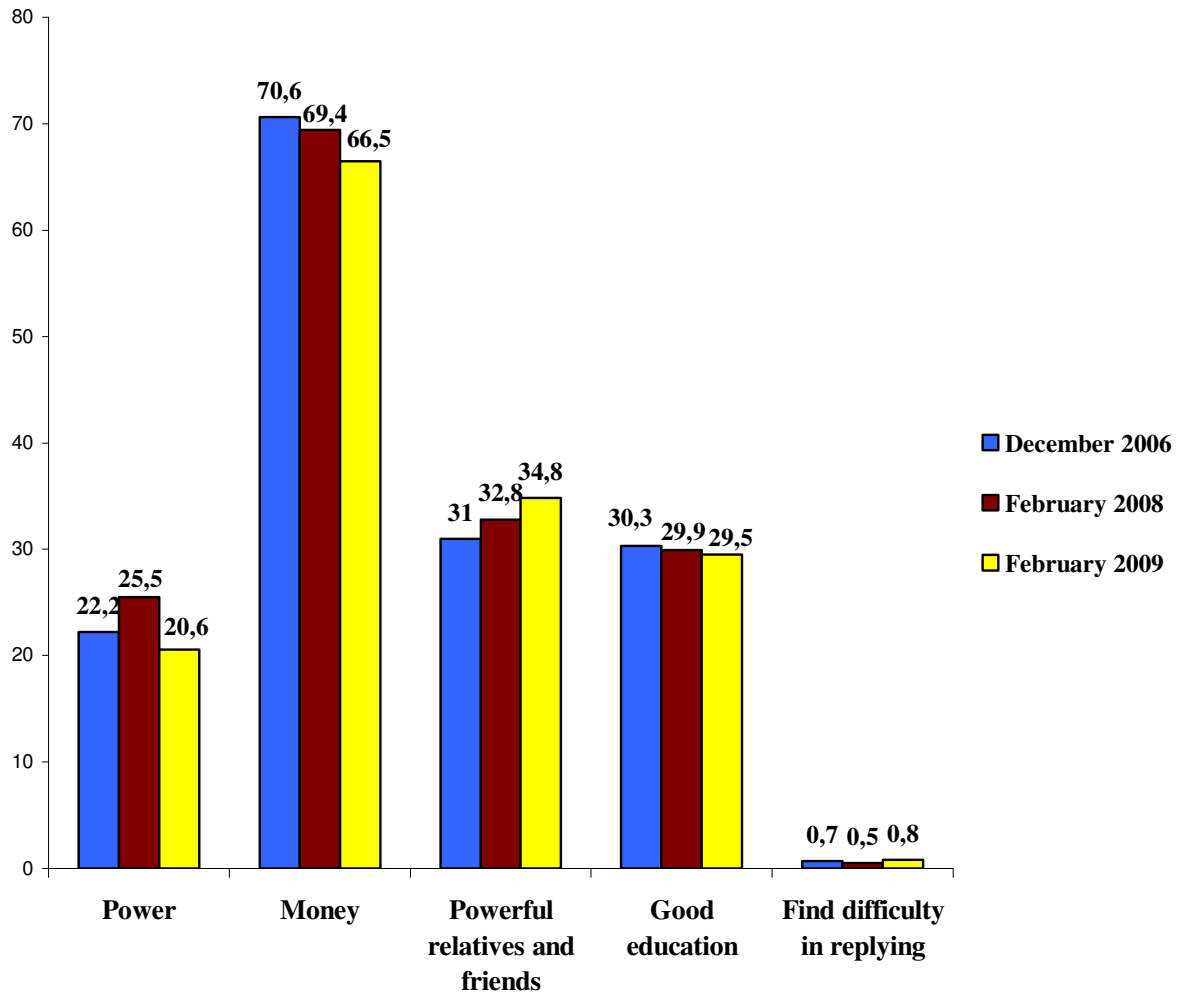


Diagram # 7. Who or what can really change situation in Azerbaijan for the better in respondents' opinion

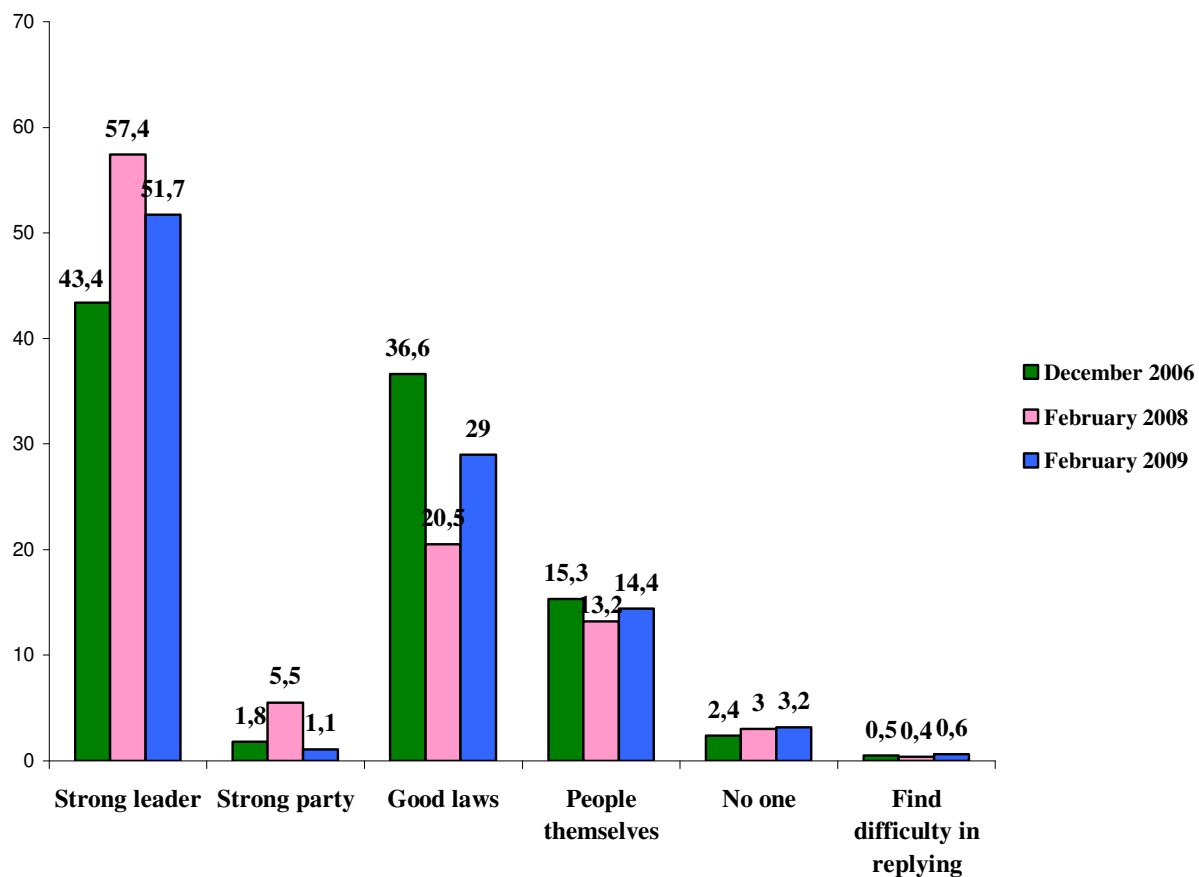


Diagram # 8. Forms of respondents' participation in social and political life

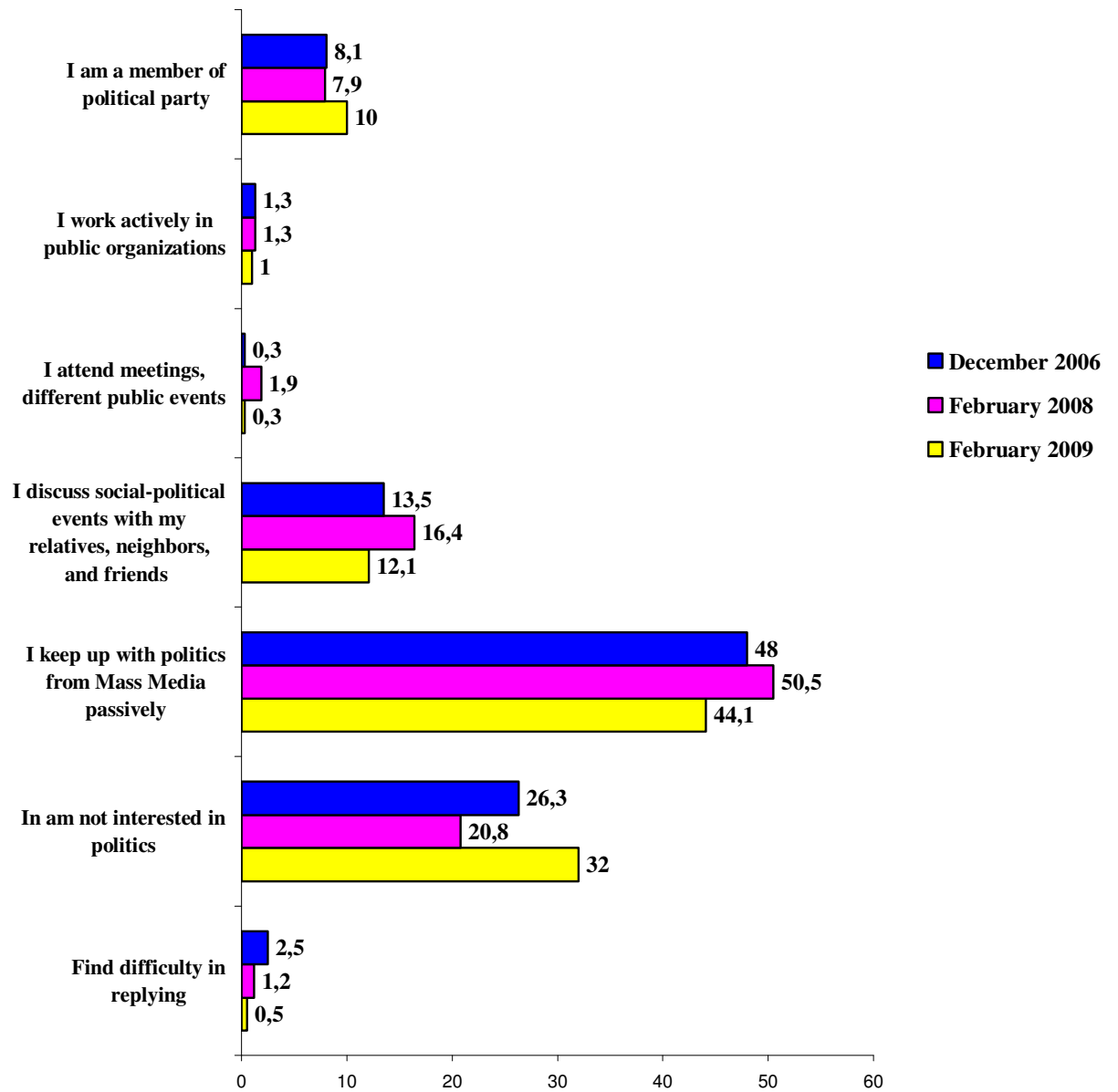


Diagram # 9. Respondents' opinion about necessity of dialogue between authorities and opposition

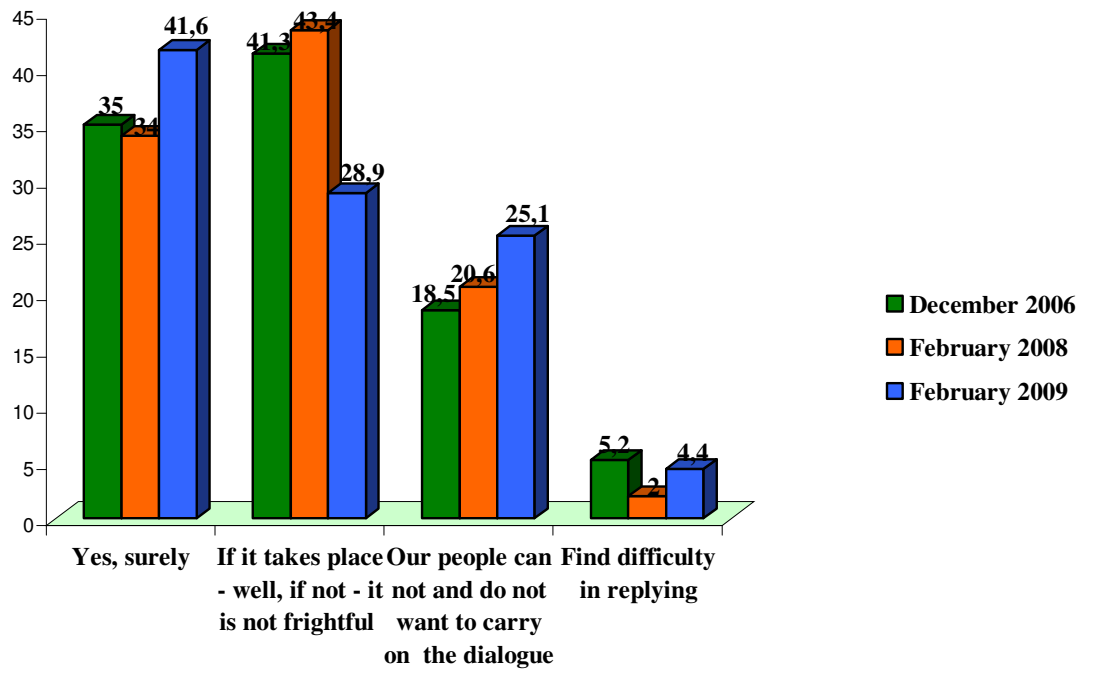


Diagram # 10. Respondents' possible react in case of initiation of mass protest actions

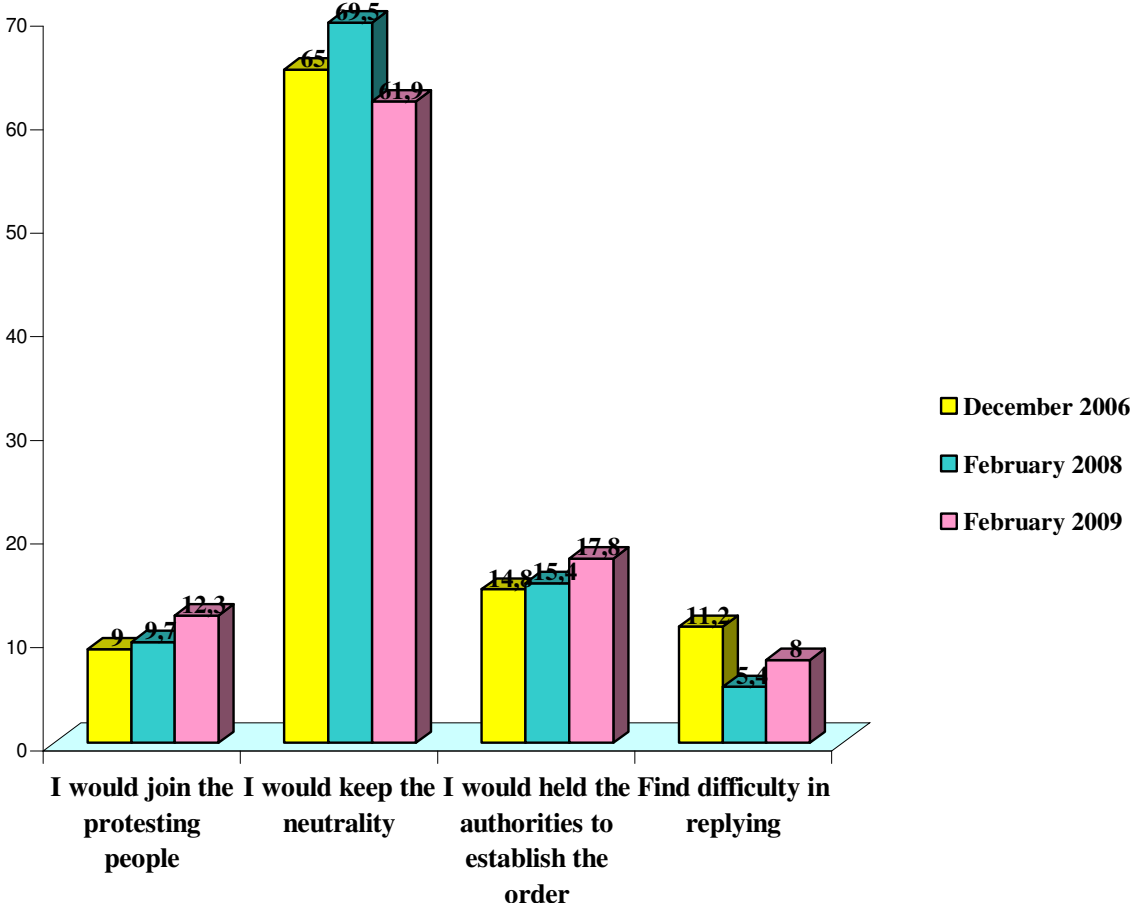


Diagram # 11. Respondents' evaluation of perspectives in settlement of conflict on Nagorno Karabakh

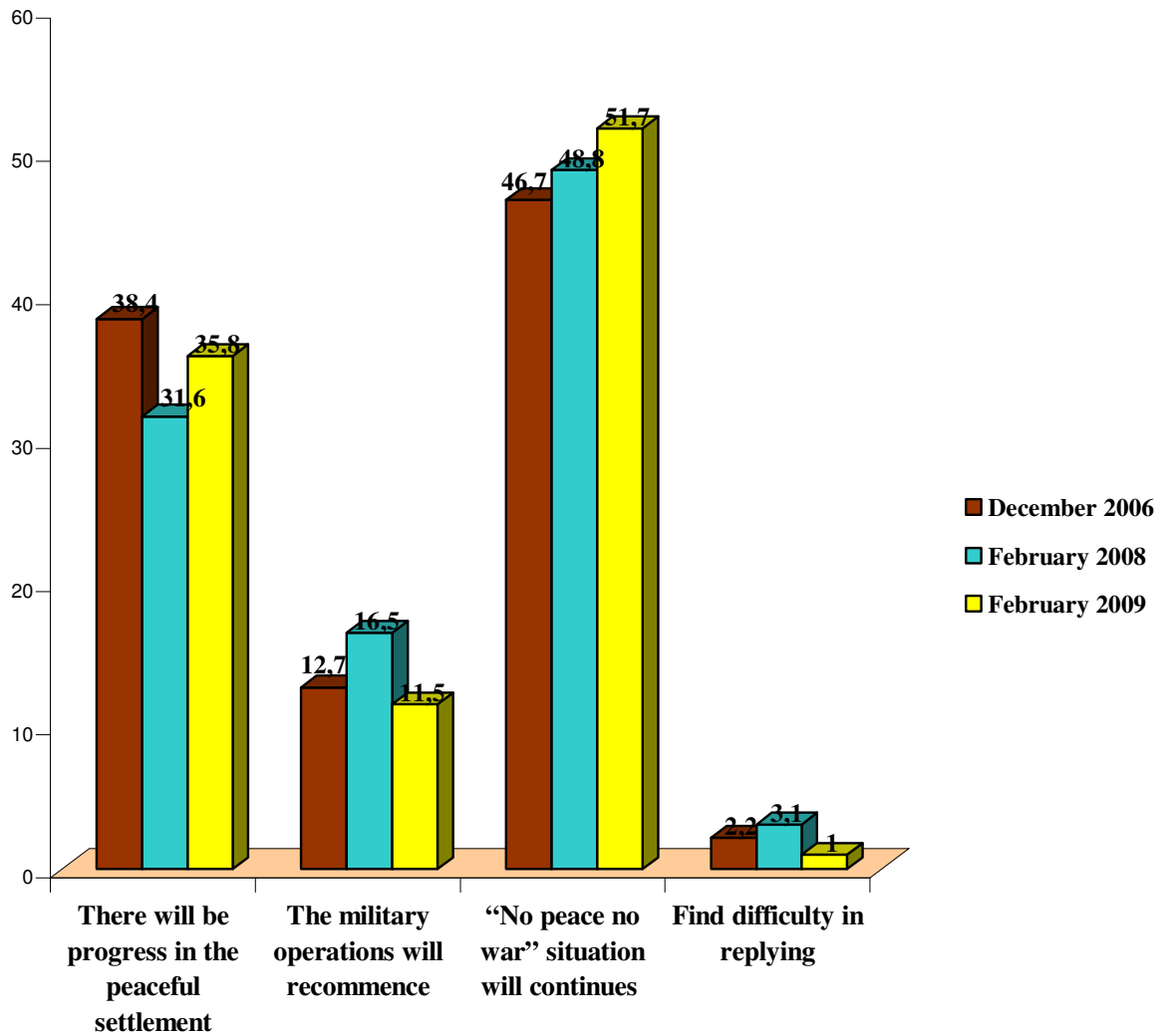


Diagram # 12. Respondents opinion about participation in the Referendum on making alterations in the Constitution of the Azerbaijan Republic (February 2009)

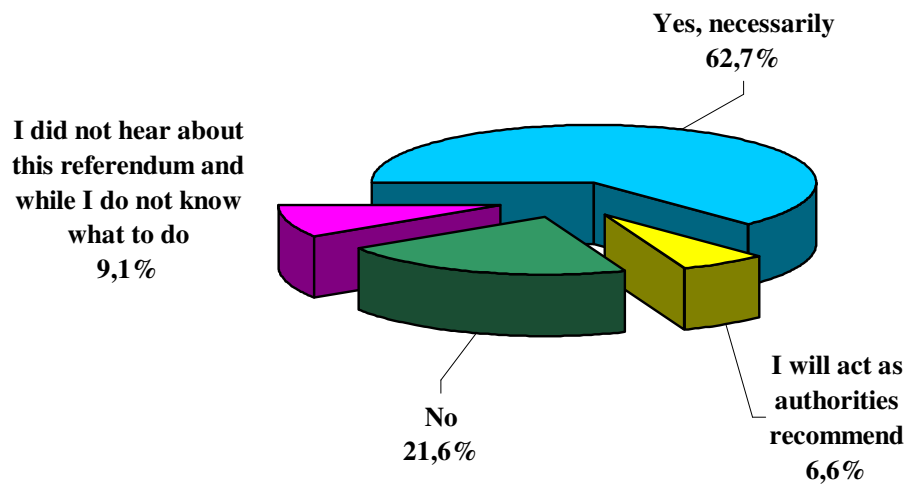


Diagram # 13. Respondents' opinion about repeal of position of the Constitution limiting a presidential term (February 2009)

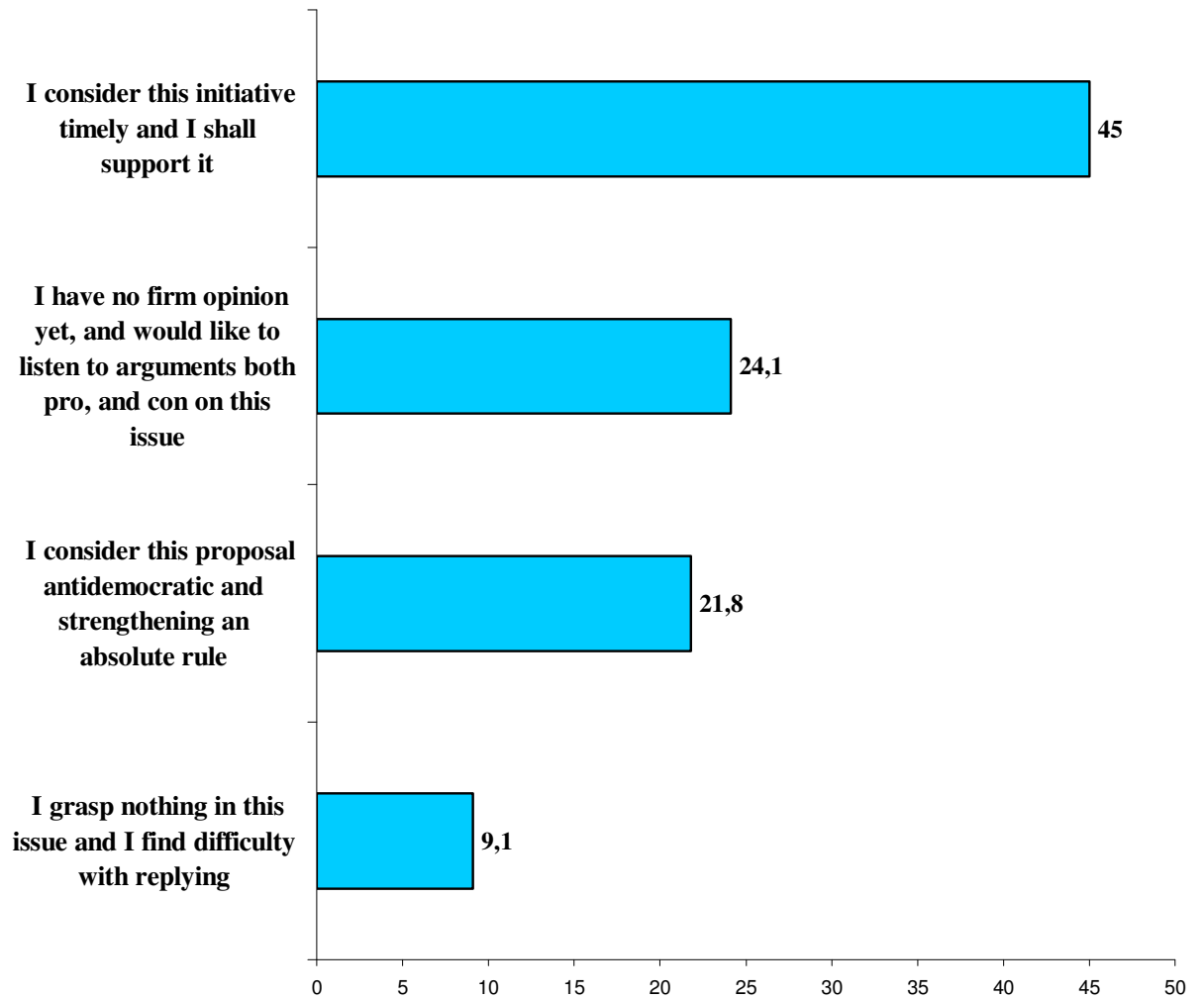
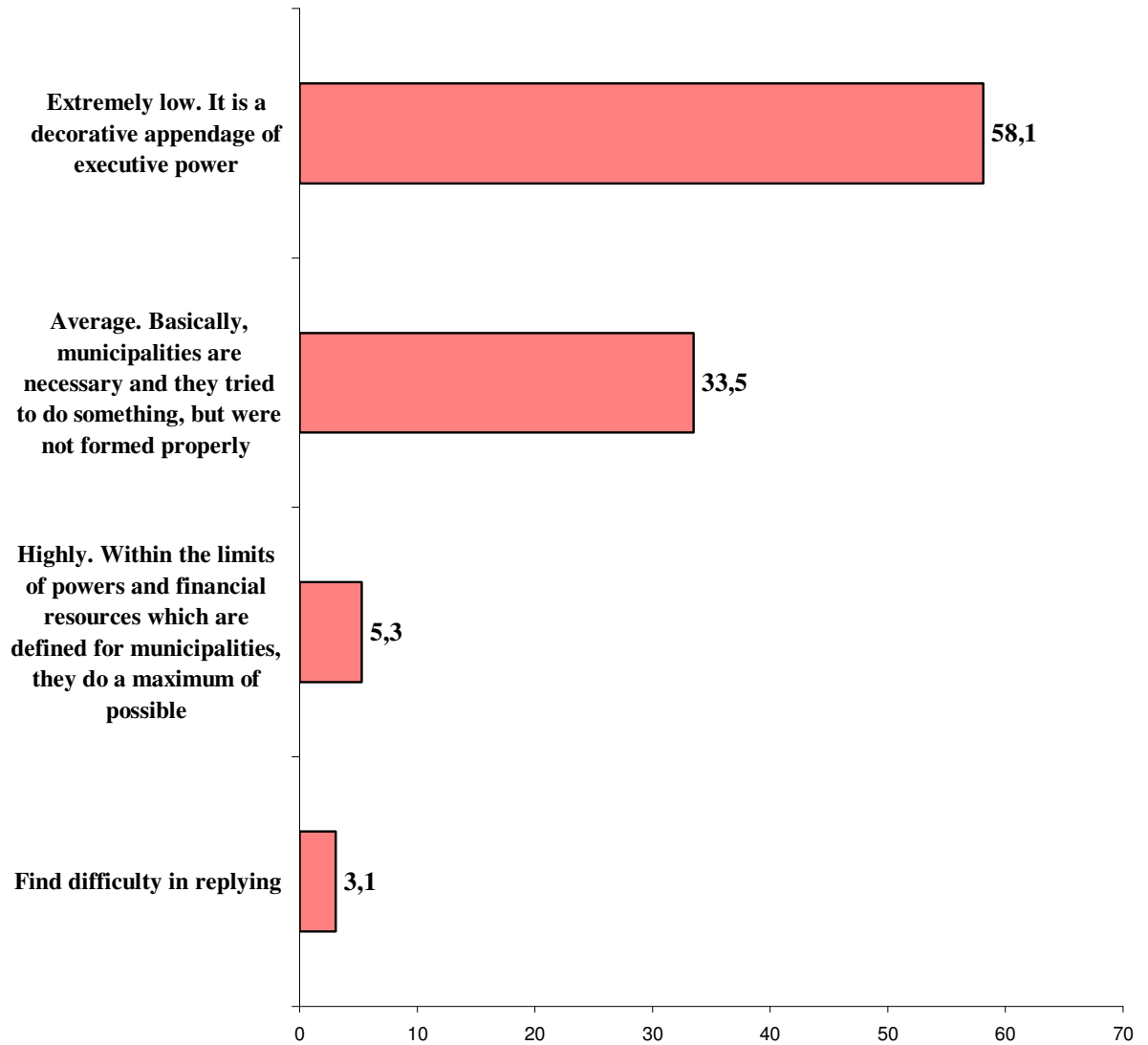


Diagram # 14. Estimation of municipalities activities in the local problems solving (February 2009)



Dioagram # 15. Respondents' opinion about perspectives of changing of situation in Azerbaijan

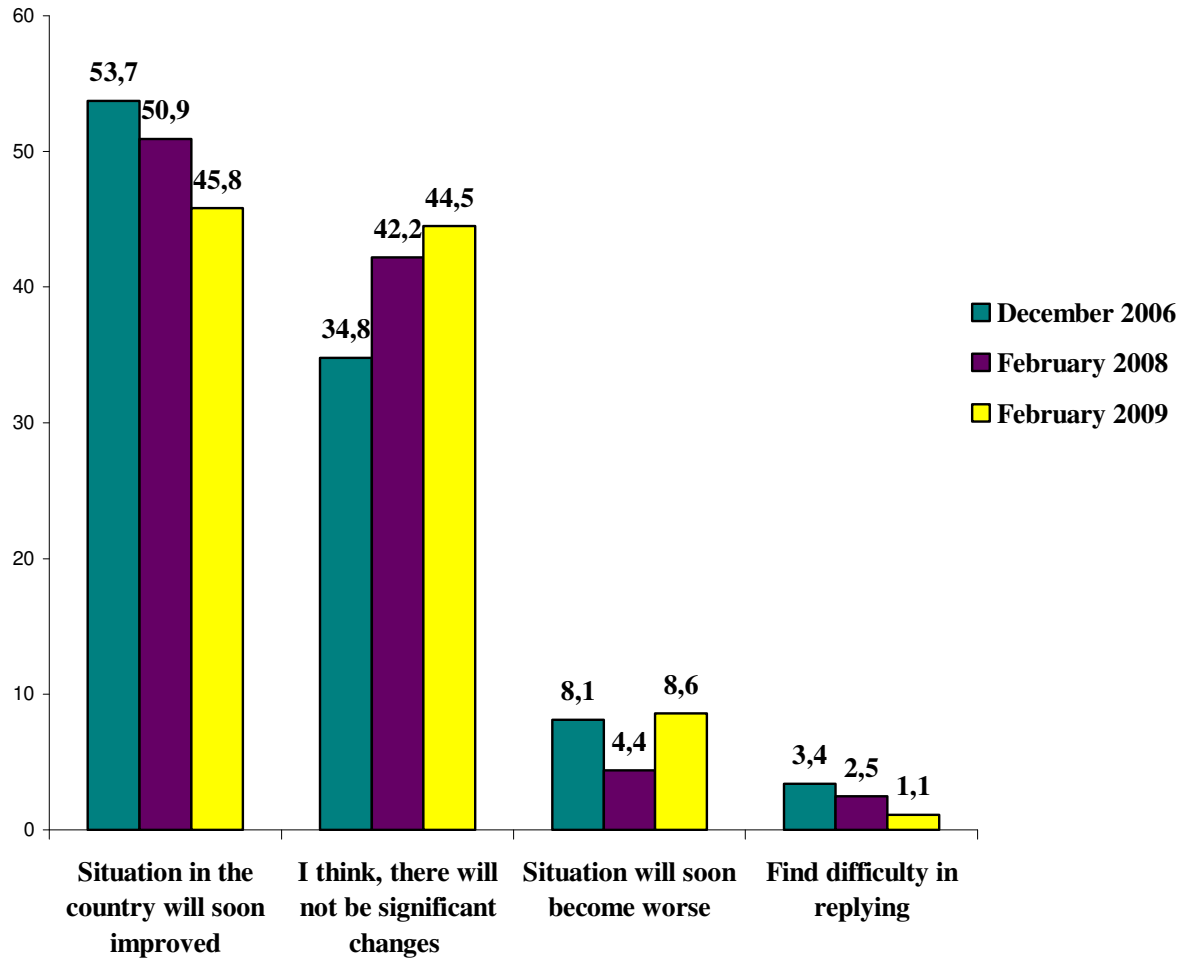


Diagram # 16. Respondents' opinion about perspectives of their own future

